GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3204
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2003
AXLE LOAD AND SPEED OF FREIGHT TRAINS .
V. SAROJA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the axle load and average speed of the freight trains in the country in comparison with the other countries;

(b) whether the Government are considering to increase the speed and axle load of freight trains; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and likely cost saving thereafter?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA)

(a) The maximum standard axle load of freight stock in the country is 20.32t for Broad Gauge(BG) and 12.2t for Meter Gauge (MG). BOXNHA wagons are designed for axle load of 22.1t but are being used at axle load of 20.82t due to limitation of track structure on Indian Railways. There are few BG wagons designed for axle load of 22.9t but their use is restricted on certain specified sections in Eastern India. Maximum permissible axle loads in other countries like Australia, Canada, China, South Africa and USA vary from 25t to 35.6t.

The following table provides an international comparison regarding maximum permissible axle loads:

Country	Maximum permissible axle load (Tonnes) approx.
India	20.32t#
Australia	35.0t
Canada	32.5t
China	25.0t
South Africa	26.0t
USA	35.6t

22.9 tonnes on certain specific sections.

The maximum permissible speed of freight trains on Indian Railways is 100 kilometers per hour (kmph) for BG and 50 kmph for MG. The average speed of freight trains on Indian Railways is 24.4 kmph for BG and 18.4 kmph for MG.The average speed of trains on Russian Railways is 38.7 kmph. For other Railway systems, authentic information is not available.

(b) & (c) : No. Sir. At present there is no plan to increase maximum permissible speed and axle load of freight trains on Indian Railways. However, in order to improve the average speed of the freight trains, a number of steps have been/are being taken, such as, better design of wagons, introduction of high capacity locomotives, improvement in track and signalling system etc.